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 Sports, Page 1B



Special joy
 God's plan often follows
 the law of contrast
 A New You, Page 6A

Granite City Journal

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VOLUME 15, NUMBER 53

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1998

FIFTY CENTS



Karen Carroll, vice president and general manager of KMOX Radio, is the 1998 chairperson for Old Newsboys Day. The event will return to its traditional date of the Thursday before Thanksgiving, which is Nov. 19 this year.

Carroll to head ONB drive

Karen Carroll, vice president and general manager of KMOX Radio, will preside over an Old Newsboys Day fund drive this year that will feature some new twists, including a return to the traditional selling date.

Carroll is the 1998 chairperson for Old Newsboys Day.
 "I've participated in Old Newsboys Day forever, mostly as a purchaser of the paper," Carroll said. "I'm honored to be asked to lead the event. The list of past chairmen is very impressive."

Carroll said she is tuned in to the heritage of Old Newsboys Day and has been impressed with the loyalty of the volunteers who hawk special editions of the Suburban Journals on street corners throughout the area.

One change this year will be to return Old Newsboys Day to its traditional date of the Thursday before Thanksgiving,

which is Nov. 19 this year. In recent years the date had been moved up to find better weather, but it didn't work as rain has plagued Old Newsboys Day for the past three years.

Finding new methods of selling the Old Newsboys Day papers is Carroll's goal for 1998.

"We have to get creative and see if we can figure this out," she said. "We're looking for some new ideas. People can call the radio station if they have an idea they think will help."

Carroll will have some assistance this year with the Old Newsboys Day drive. St. Louis Cardinals broadcaster and veteran KMOX-AM (1200) sports personality Jack Buck will be an honorary chairman for the event.

In addition, Ted Wetterau, who was the 1997 Old Newsboys Day chairman, will head up a group of past chairmen and

local community leaders who hope to generate more funds for children's charities. Wetterau will serve as president of the Old Newsboys Childrens Charities Board.

"I think this is really going to be good," Wetterau said. "We're going to get more people involved in the process with the hope of helping more kids."

Thomas E. Rice, president and CEO of the Suburban Journals, said the increase in municipal laws prohibiting street corner solicitation means Carroll and the newly formed Old Newsboys board will need to find some non-traditional methods of selling newspapers.

"Carroll will bring an enthusiasm to the Old Newsboys Day chairmanship that is essential to making the event a success," Rice said. "We are happy to have her leading the drive."

Classic cars cruise local raceway

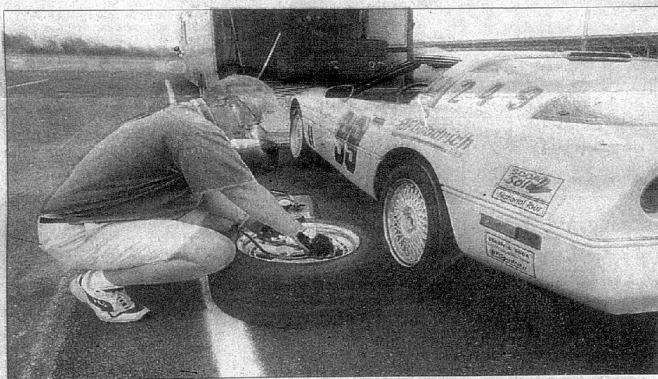
Convention
 attracts Vette
 enthusiasts

By Scott Cousins
 Staff writer

There is something about a Vette.
 Since 1953, the Corvette — which some say is the only true American sports car — has drawn stares from the car-conscious.

From pristine show cars to rough racers, about 450 Corvettes were at Gateway International Raceway this week for the 39th annual National Council of Corvette Clubs Inc. convention.
 "It handles well," said Corvette driver Roger Johnson of Fostoria, Ohio.

Johnson was checking tire pressure for his '88 Corvette before racing on one of two road courses at Gateway.
 "It's not hard to drive," he said. "A lot of other cars, folks will run them in sports car club events, but the Corvette's just a lot easier drive. It has the power, brakes, the turning capabilities that get your juices flowing and the adrenaline pumping."
 "GM is always careful to give it a little more power than the Camaro and



Above, Roger Johnson of Fostoria, Ohio, checks the pressure on the tires of his 1988 Corvette before taking on the oval course at Gateway International Raceway Tuesday. Johnson was among the owners of up to 400 Corvettes at the 39th annual National Council of Corvette Clubs Inc. convention last week. At left, one of many distinctive license plates favored by Vette owners.

Scott Cousins photos

Zoning change made to lure business here

By Scott Cousins
 Staff writer

The city of Madison is changing the zoning along McCambridge Avenue from Second Street to the Granite City City limits in an effort to attract businesses.

At Tuesday's meeting the City Council approved changing the zoning to B-2 business. The corridor extends for 200 feet on both sides of the street and is designed to attract businesses, especially fast food and convenience-type stores, to the city.

"We established a 200 feet because most businesses need at least 150," said Mayor John Hamm. "We're making that area more user-friendly for developers."

At a Zoning Board hearing Monday, about five people showed up. There was no real opposition, but some residents were concerned about their tax rates.

Hamm said it would not change tax rates, but it could make property in the zone more valuable.

He also said nobody will be forced to sell to developers. "Nobody will be forced to move," he said. "We've made



John Hamm

the business corridor. They have to negotiate with the residents."

Hamm said there have been a number of inquiries about the area.

Most recently, Casey's General Store purchased city property at Third and McCambridge to build a new convenience store, and demolition on the old Louis Baer School is underway.

See ZONING, Page 3A

Granite City Journal

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Sunday 97 78	Monday 98 79	Tuesday 98 80	Wednesday 95 76
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Man disqualified from standing contest

By Linda N. Weller
 Staff writer

The charity stand-a-thon at Alton Square ended in a heartbreaking conclusion Thursday when popular contestant Daniel Kirkpatrick of Granite City was disqualified from the competition.

After standing in the shopping center parking lot for more than five days, Kirkpatrick reportedly leaned over to greet two boys from his church around 9:30 a.m. and inadvertently touched a tent

Contestant touches pole.

pole.

Contest supervisors reluctantly deemed Kirkpatrick, 25, disqualified although he had not used the metal pole for support.

Ironically it was members from his church, the First Assembly of God in Granite City, that had spurred him on during the long ordeal that began Friday night.

Kirkpatrick had outlasted 68 other

contestants in Alton in the First Stop Inc., Bunky's Charity Stand-A-Thon and 139 contestants at Mid-Rivers Mall in St. Peters, Mo.

Kirkpatrick's disqualification meant the remaining, sole competitor in Missouri became the contest winner. The winner had a choice of his prize — a mobile home worth \$50,000 or \$25,000 in cash. The winner, Alan Jett of Missouri, chose the home.

Kirkpatrick had entered the contest to

See RESIDENT, Page 5A

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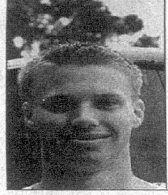


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Voice Box

What do you think about Brett Hull leaving the St. Louis Blues ?

Photos and interviews by Shirley Valencia



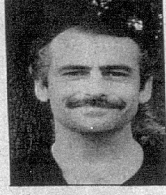
"He was good for the Blues when he first came here, but he has not done anything great for a while. He will be missed."

David Zellerman, 18
Student

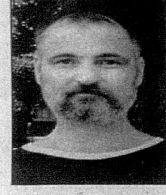
"It's disappointing, but changes have to be made. Players come and go in a free-agent world."

Mike Bryant, 30
Teacher

"I think it's awful they didn't keep Brett Hull. They made a great mistake and they will see a big change — for the worse. Good luck, Brett."

Rolia Kelly
Insurance rep

"Brett Hull leaving is probably a good thing. Sports figures are way overpaid, and they are starting to think they are worth it. They need to realize that the fans pay their salary, and you just can't treat them like this and expect us not to be bitter."

John Shoffner, 37
Auto mechanic

"I don't think he will be missed. They should have traded him years ago instead of Adam Oates."

Jeff Shoffner, 38
Railroad

Earthquake policy kept

By Dennis Grubaugh
Staff writer

Earthquake insurance prompted rumbling from County Board members Monday, but when the dust settled the county had decided to keep its buildings fully insured.

Last week the Central Services Committee, chaired by Byers, unanimously voted to reduce the amount of earthquake coverage.

Buildings Committee members meeting Monday morning disagreed with the recommendation to lower the earthquake coverage and asked for reconsideration, which came at the Central Services Committee session Monday afternoon. The committee reversed its decision.

On Wednesday, the full County Board approved the committee's recommendation.

Mitchell must now face cities; year-old objections still stand

By Scott Kelly
Staff writer

Although the Madison County Board approved Mitchell's map Wednesday, incorporation supporters must still face the challenge of appealing several surrounding cities.

The cities, including Granite City, Pontoon Beach and Edwardsville, officially objected last summer to Mitchell's incorporation.

When the County Board denied Mitchell's incorporation last summer, based on a much larger map, and then Judge Randall Bono

dismissed Mitchell's petition to incorporate — based upon the board's decision — the questions and objections the cities had basically were left in limbo.

Now that Mitchell has cleared the County Board hurdle and awaits the approval of a judge to place incorporation on the ballot, those questions are coming back again.

"The situation hasn't changed much," said Dan Brown, Granite City's economic development director.

All the Madison County Board did was approve the 7.28-square-mile map presented by Mitchell supporters because it met two criteria. State's Attorney William Haine said that because board members approved the

map, they said it fit with the county's land use plan, and they believed the land included in the map constituted a sufficient tax base for the village to provide necessary municipal services.

One of the main issues now is the population question. Mitchell still needs to meet the state required population of 7,500 residents, Brown said. Also, it still needs permission of the surrounding cities to incorporate.

"If the proposed village is not 7,500, then that will be tested in a court of law with a judge who will determine that," Haine said Wednesday. It was not up to the County Board to determine that fact.

Pontoon Beach Mayor Glen Wilson said he

had no problem with what the board did, but he did say "they pushed it back on us."

He said Pontoon Beach agreed to the 4-mile map created by that village, Granite City and Edwardsville, not the larger map approved by the board.

"The state statutes say they have to have 7,000 people and need our permission," Wilson said. "I don't think they have that right now."

Edwardsville Mayor Gary Niebur said that although his city never opposed Mitchell's right to vote, Edwardsville wants everyone to live where they want.

Mitchell's lawsuit against Edwardsville over the Poag area will be settled separate from the larger incorporation fight.

Driver with gun allegedly threatens man

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

A Madison man faces felony charges after being arrested by Madison police for having a gun in a car Wednesday.

Timothy Smith, 27, of the 1500 block of Second Street, was charged Thursday with unlawful use of a weapon. He also faces misdemeanor charges of illegal transportation of alcohol.

He also had several outstanding warrants. Passenger Jessie Leonard, 27, of the 1600 block of

Second Street, was charged with illegal transportation of alcohol.

The incident started at about 9:45 p.m. when a man reported Smith had threatened him as he was leaving the Third Street ball diamond.

The man said he saw Smith waving a handgun as he drove away.

About an hour later, the man called police again to report that Smith and another man were repeatedly driving around his house.

At about 11 p.m., police

were advised that Smith's vehicle was near the intersection of Second Street and Washington Avenue.

After police stopped the car, they took Smith into custody on the two outstanding warrants.

According to reports, police saw two open beer bottles in the front of the car. Leonard was then arrested, and during a subsequent check of the vehicle, a semiautomatic handgun was found under the driver's seat.

Smith was released after posting \$3,265 cash bond.

Poag area's fate remains uncertain

By Becky Vollmer
Staff writer

Recent annexations by Edwardsville in the American Bottoms may not have cut off the Poag area from the Mitchell incorporation effort as was previously thought.

Mitchell's attorney said. Thus, the Poag area is included in the 7.28 square-mile Mitchell incorporation map that was approved Wednesday by the Madison County Board.

Mitchell leaders had feared the annexation of about 340 acres by Edwardsville last week would sever the Poag area from the main body that would be incorporated, but now say they're not sure.

"That's a good question and one that I can't really answer," said Mitchell attorney Jim Sinclair.

Sinclair said what appears to be Edwardsville's failure to annex a strip of railroad right of way means there is a possibility Poag could be included.

"I'm not hanging my hat on that, though," Sinclair said. "That's going to be something we'll have to sort out in court."

The land drawing attached to the annexation ordinances appears to include the railroad right of way, but Sinclair said he can find no mention of it in the legal description.

"There's a discrepancy there," he said. One Edwardsville official said he was unsure whether the city annexed the right of way, but that he doesn't see how Mitchell can include the Poag area in its incorporation map in light of the annexations.

"It would seem to me there's a problem there," said Alderman Rich Madison.

"It seems to me the latest annexation to Edwardsville causes that area not to be contiguous to Mitchell, and it has to be contiguous by state statute," Sinclair said the "rule of

thumb" that has been established in Madison County for land to be contiguous is a 350-foot strip. He said he did not know the width of the right of way in question.

Sinclair's argument appears to be a double-edged sword, at least in terms of a lawsuit filed earlier this week against the city of Edwardsville.

The suit claims Edwardsville's annexations in the bottoms split the Mitchell Fire severed would be negated, Sinclair acknowledged.

If, on the other hand, it is determined that the right of way is insufficient to connect the two bodies, it could mean the district was severed.

That could negate Edwardsville's argument that the annexation had no impact on the fire district, and could possibly invalidate the annexation, Sinclair said.

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Development seeks incentives for restaurant

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

A restaurant employing upwards of 130 people is expected to be the first development in a new business park proposed near Illinois 111 and Chain of Rocks Road in Pontoon Beach.

A preliminary plat for the Regional Commerce Park development was approved by the board at Tuesday's meeting. The development would be located near the vehicle emission testing station on Chain of Rocks

Road. The business park is being proposed by St. Louis developer Joseph Reding. Representatives of the development spoke at Tuesday's meeting and asked the village for financial incentives for the restaurant.

The restaurant, Rural Route Country Cooking, is similar to a Cracker Barrel Restaurant and has other locations in Mt. Vernon and St. Charles, Mo.

The building itself would be approximately 8,000 square feet and occupy

about 5 1/2 acres, said Mayor Glen Wilson.

It initially would employ about 160 people. That number would be reduced to approximately 130.

Wilson said he had tentatively set a Finance Committee meeting for 7 p.m. Monday to discuss possible incentives.

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CAC

Gateway Coordinating Council seeking tips from residents

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

Interested citizens still have an opportunity to look over plans for more than \$1.5 billion in regional transportation improvements. As part of its Transportation Improvement Plan, the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council is holding a series of public meetings on both sides of the river. Few attended Wednesday's meeting at the Illinois Department of Transportation's regional headquarters in Collinsville. Jim Wild, manager of project programming and evaluation for the council, said that other than transportation or locally elected officials, few people attend their meetings. "I don't know if it's a function of

people being happy with the transportation system or people not knowing how to influence or being a part of the decision making process," he said. However, he added that they take suggestions seriously. "The purpose of the meetings are to, first of all, get information out to the public, also to solicit information from the public on their priorities," he said. "If someone comes to the meeting and they know of a need out there, they should let us know; we can refer them to the community or appropriate agency and they can start the process that way." However, because the TIP is a three-year document, the process does take a long time. The TIP will divide \$1.07 billion in federal expenditures between 702 projects for the fiscal years 1999

"I don't know if it's a function of people being happy with the transportation system, or people not knowing how to influence or being a part of the decision making process."

Jim Wild

through 2001. With the addition of local matching funds, the total cost of the projects exceeds \$1.5 billion. Of those, 234 projects totaling \$360.5 million are in Illinois and 28 projects totaling \$60.8 million are listed as multi-state.

Adoption of the TIP for major transportation-related projects in the region is required before federal funds can be spent on them. Depending on the type of project, federal funds can total up to 80 percent of the project cost. The projects range from para-transit — providing vehicles to transport elderly and disabled — to major road and bridge improvements. "The size within all of those categories can range from tens of thousands of dollars to tens of millions of dollars," Wild said. The TIP has seven priorities, with preservation of existing infrastructure being the most important. Other priorities are, in order: safety, congestion, access to opportunity, goods movement, development and resource conservation.

"Preserving the existing infrastructure is the number one priority," he said. "Whether that means resurfacing, rebuilding roads that are already in place...those types of things." He said they try to avoid giving new road construction a high priority. "We have a significant amount of infrastructure in place now, and we need to try to keep that going." The council is expected to approve the TIP Aug. 26. The final regional meeting will be 4:7 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Council offices at 10 Stadium Plaza in St. Louis. Written comments can be submitted to the council until Aug. 14. Written comments should be addressed to Les Sternman, executive director East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, 10 Stadium Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63102.

Briefly

Guest speaking at Harvest Assembly
The Rev. Mike Hopkins, recently approved Assemblies of God missionary to Italy, will be the featured guest speaker at Harvest Assembly today, Sunday. Mike and Loretta Hopkins have enjoyed 22 years of pastoral ministry, most recently serving with the Assemblies of God in

Arizona and Illinois. They look forward to a new opportunity for outreach in Rome, where they will be pastoring the Assemblies of God's International Church in the city, reaching a community of expatriates from around the world. The public is invited to attend their missions presentation at 10 a.m. in Harvest Assembly, 4598 Illinois St. The Rev. Roy A. Boyer will be presiding.

Kopis joins area law firm
Peel, Beatty and Motil, a general practice law firm specializing in worker's compensation and personal injury, has welcomed Jeff Kopis to its staff. Kopis, a graduate of St. Louis University Law School, has handled general litigation in Illinois and Missouri for five years.

City picks up several parcels

Madison continues its westward expansion

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

The city of Madison continued its westward expansion with the annexation of several parcels, including the Kienstra Co. property. At Tuesday's meeting, the council approved the annexation of the property, five parcels belonging to the Metro East Sanitary District and the Denny property near Illinois 111. The Kienstra property — a 17-acre parcel — had been part of Fairmont City's attempts to annex more than 700 acres of the former National City. That attempt was dropped after several landowners, including Kienstra, and the city of Madison objected. One of the reasons for Madison's objection is that the city had been negotiating with Kienstra to bring the property into its limits. As part of the pre-annexation agreement with Kienstra, the city promised not to change the legal weight limit or to "induce other legal entities" to reduce the weight limit. In addition, the city promised to zone the property for industrial use, include it in a tax increment financing district and not to use its power of eminent domain to take the property for a third party.

In the event the city would take the property for public use, it would pay three times the fair market value of the property. Mayor John Hamm said the city has a number of properties in the area that will eventually be included in the city's TIF district, but they are waiting until they have all or most of their annexations finalized. The cost of creating or expanding a TIF is approximately \$20,000. The city has expanded the original district, which included Gateway International Raceway and surrounding areas, once. In a related matter, the council also approved withdrawing any offers or proposals regarding pre-annexation from the St. Louis National Stockyards.

In a letter to the company, Hamm said the stockyards' pre-annexation agreement and subsequent petition to annex into Fairmont City was considered to be a rejection of Madison's offers. In 1996, when Madison and Fairmont City were jockeying for position to annex the stockyards, Madison sent a proposal including plans to include the area in a TIF and other inducements.

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Continued from Page 1A

In other business, the council approved a \$5.6 million appropriations ordinance. The appropriations ordinance sets the legal spending limit for the city and covers the fiscal year from May 1, 1998, to April 30, 1999. This year's appropriations are about \$1 million less than last year. "We had fat filled into those accounts. I don't think that's necessary," Hamm said.

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Tiff spurred by possible abuses of popular measure

State legislature considers reforming tax increment financing laws

By Jason White
Staff writer

The state legislature is looking at reforming tax increment financing laws to prevent the abuses that have made TIF a four-letter word to some critics.

TIF began in California in 1952 as a tool to spur development in economically stagnant areas without imposing higher property taxes.

Today, municipal governments in all but three states use TIF, which came about largely because of declining state and federal aid to urban areas.

TIF allows municipalities to use increased property taxes from new development to pay for infrastructure improvements or other incentives.

Other taxing bodies in TIF districts continue to receive the tax revenue that existed prior to the development. In recent years, criticism of TIF has increased as developers have reaped tax incentives in areas that are already ripe for development.

State Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-Centralia) is a member of the House panel studying proposed changes to the TIF law.

The bi-partisan panel is looking at TIF districts throughout the state to see whether changes to the law are needed.

"I think everybody's in there with their eyes open, trying to take a reasonable course of action," Granberg said.

One of Granberg's concerns is that TIF is now having the opposite effect

of the law's original intent — instead of revitalizing downtown areas, businesses are often drawn to competing TIF districts outside central business districts.

"Some of these areas think they should do TIF's just because they're a neat thing to do," Granberg said.

Granberg said the panel will hold hearings later this month to determine whether the state or local government should enact TIF changes. The bill will be debated again in the fall session.

Granberg said local control and input is integral to the process. "Local control is always the best mechanism," Granberg said.

The Illinois Tax Increment Association's spring newsletter lists seven problems with TIF's,

including:

- Municipalities including vacant farmland in TIF districts;
- TIF municipalities not being accountable to overlapping taxing bodies or to the public;
- School districts not gaining access to property taxes produced by TIF-sponsored housing projects that produce additional students;
- Businesses closing facilities in adjacent communities and relocating to TIF districts;
- Using TIF to finance public buildings, especially city or village halls;
- Using TIF to pay administrative costs for municipalities or to finance other questionable costs;
- Using TIF to demolish

affordable housing inhabited by low- to moderate-income residents without using TIF funds to relocate the displaced residents.

"We've got a very extensive set of changes that affect almost all aspects of the law," ITIA Executive Director Don Eslick said.

Much of the 100-page bill tightens definitions for eligible projects. The current law merely lists the factors without rigid definitions.

"You want to be sure the money's used properly," Eslick said. "You want to be sure that the projects need TIF support."

Eslick said the bill would strengthen the law's "but for" provision, which is already considered to be among the nation's strongest.

In a redevelopment agreement, a municipality must demonstrate that "but for" TIF-sponsored help, a project would not go forward.

Milestones

Tommy Schmidt celebrated a birthday July 12.

Bill and Rosemary Puhse celebrate their wedding anniversary today, July 19.

Kacy Winters celebrates a birthday today, July 19.

Flora Baker celebrates a birthday today, July 19.

Phillip Joseph Kosteci celebrates a birthday today, July 19.

Harry Rodgers celebrates a birthday today, July 19.

Barb Steward celebrates a birthday July 20.

David Gibson celebrates a birthday July 20.

Leo C. Bringer celebrates a birthday July 20.

Danielle Lynn Dickey celebrates a birthday July 20.

Jennifer Wise celebrates a birthday July 20.

Cathy Utz celebrates a birthday July 20.

Jon Christophor celebrates a birthday July 20.

Susie Venable celebrates a birthday July 20.

Tinna and Tierra Holmes celebrate a birthday July 20.

William and Anna Potts celebrate their wedding anniversary July 20.

Jack Schooley celebrates a birthday July 20.

Sandy Dickerman celebrates a birthday July 21.

Ashley Marie Hollenback celebrates a birthday July 21.

Marc Griffin celebrates a birthday July 21.

Nicole Vaughn celebrates a birthday July 22.

Deanna McCosky celebrates a birthday July 22.

Dan Skolik celebrates a birthday July 22.

Gayle Mendez celebrates a birthday July 22.

Michelle Huffman celebrates a birthday July 23.

Jessie Boyie celebrates a birthday July 23.

Dan Rujawitz celebrates a birthday July 24.

Theresa "Terry" Hanneman celebrates a birthday July 24.

Frank and Sue Bennett celebrate their wedding anniversary July 24.

Ann Siebert celebrates a birthday July 24.

Carol Kindie celebrates a birthday July 25.

Loyal and Nina Gunderson celebrate their wedding anniversary July 25.

Eric Mooshegan celebrates a birthday July 25.

To submit an item to Milestones or delete an entry, send a postcard to "Milestones," Granite City Journal, 1815 Delmar Ave., Granite City, IL 62040.

Please notify the paper if a person listed in Milestones has passed away or no longer wishes to be listed.

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Obituaries

Anne Bush

ANNE E. (CRABTREE) BUSH, 81, of Granite City died from a heart attack at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City.

Mrs. Thomas was born April 23, 1917, in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Survivors include her sons, Donald Bush of Granite City and James Bush of Germany; one brother, Wilbur Crabtree of Ironton, Ohio; one sister, Kathryn Taylor of Federal Way, Wash.; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Bush; her parents, Walter and Elsie (Allison) Crabtree; and one sister, Marie Graham.

There was no services. The remains were cremated. The Thomas Memorial Mortuary handled the arrangements.

Rudolph Corbett
RUDOLPH R. CORBETT, 70, of Granite City died Monday, July 13, 1998, at SEMC in Granite City.

Mr. Corbett was born April 21, 1928, in Madison.

Survivors include his brother, James Corbett of Huntington, Ind.; three sisters, Fern

Stephens and Roberts Darragh, both of Granite City, and Geraldine Rodgers of Mitchell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Dollie (Varnier) Corbett; and two brothers, Harold and Gilbert Corbett.

Graveside services were Thursday, July 16, at Lake View Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Kevin Peterson officiating.

The Press-Record/Journal will publish obituaries up to two weeks following the funeral services.

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF JACK SMITH WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR KINDNESS SHOWN DURING THIS TIME OF BEREAVEMENT.

Although most obituaries are received from local funeral homes, obituary notices can be sent to the newspaper at Granite City Press-Record/Journal, 1815 Delmar, Granite City, IL 62040.

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Call Memorial's Marsh Cardiovascular Unit at (618) 257-5164. The Wound Care and Limb Preservation Clinic is held on Tuesdays in Memorial's Physical Therapy Department.



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Fair b

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

If you're hanker home-grown vegetables, you'll want to visit the new Madison County Fair.

MADISON COUNTY

then Highland's Park is the place to go.

That's the site of Madison County Fair, which begins today, Sunday.

event kicks off with ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. The annual Queen takes center stage at 5 p.m. and bluegrass runs until 10 p.m.

Carnival rides start from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fairgrounds open Friday.

The fair runs through Friday.

Livestock and a variety of categories are prominently at 8 a.m. Tuesday is Fun

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Fair begins today

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

If you're hankering to see home-grown vegetables, barnyard animals or

MADISON COUNTY
cowboys riding and roping, then Highland's Lindendale Park is the place to be this week.

That's the site of the Madison County Fair, which begins today, Sunday. The event kicks off with opening ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. The annual Queen Pageant takes center stage at 7:30 p.m. and bluegrass music runs until 10 p.m.

Carnival rides run daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fairgrounds open at 8 a.m. The fair runs through Friday.

Livestock and agriculture take the spotlight Monday on "4-H Day." Judging in a variety of categories begins promptly at 8 a.m. Tuesday is Fun Day and

will feature a new event, the "Farm Follies." A series of farm games gives participants in three age categories the chance to compete. The games are sponsored by the Madison County Young Farmers and the Highland Future Farmers of America.

Wednesday is Disabilities Awareness Day while Thursday is Highland Day. The week ends on Friday with Senior Citizens Day.

Also new this year is alligator wrestling. Kuchunga and the Alligator, an act from Canada, will perform three times daily.

It wouldn't be a fair without the Combine Demolition Derby. It's set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Live music will be featured, too, with Dixie Express at 7 p.m. Thursday and Mike Bishop and Sweet 'n Sassy at 8 p.m. Friday.

For more information, call the Madison County Fair office at 654-6666.

County court garners achievement award

By Scott Kelly
Staff writer

Madison County's drug court is the perfect example of an innovative and creative government program that works, a national organization believes.

The National Association of Counties has chosen the Madison County Assessment and Treatment Alternative Court for a 1998 Achievement Award. The award formally recognizes progressive, creative and effective county government programs.

MC-ATAC is a relatively new program that uses treatment and counseling to help drug offenders rather than locking them up in prison.

Madison County's drug court is the first of its kind in the state and serves as a model for others throughout the Midwest. It was created by County Clerk Mark Von Nida and others in response to a more than 50 percent increase in felony drug cases in the past few years. Presiding judge for the program is Edward Ferguson.

Those eligible for the program include those who have no history of violent or weapons offenses and are charged with Class 3 and 4 felony drug possession offenses, excluding trafficking; felony prostitution; felony deceptive practices; criminal damage to property; and felony theft or retail theft, Class 3 or 4.

These defendants may complete

intensive treatment in lieu of criminal probation.

They also may enter the program as a condition of probation and may qualify for early termination upon completion of the treatment program.

Defendants entering the program do so through written agreement between the prosecutor and defense attorney.

A reception honoring all the award winners from across the nation will be held later this month during the National Association of Counties' annual conference in Portland, Ore. A member of the Madison County Board and some of the MC-ATAC staff will be attending.

Event emphasizes positive, safe recreation for children

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

Madison children and adults will be joining others throughout the country in giving crime a going away party.

The Madison Neighborhood Watch will be hosting a National Night Out from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 4 at Third Street and Alton Avenue.

The event will include booths, food and

fun activities, said Madison Alderman Alexis Lux, who is spearheading the effort.

"What we're planning is having a carnival area for the kids, ages kindergarten through sixth grade," she said. "But any child that attends has to have an adult with them."

"We're trying to do an evening out with the kids without violence or drugs; just a place for them to go out and have fun

without worrying," she said.

Activities will include a hot dog roast, a duck pond, face painting and other games.

The Madison event is part of a nationwide effort in more than 9,200 communities sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

The theme is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party." For information, call 451-1924.

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Resident proves popular contestant

Continued from Page 1A

win the cash — half for himself and half for Speed the Light youth program for missionaries of Assemblies of God.

"The judges didn't want to call him out, they were attached to him," said a woman named Lisa in First Stop Inc. corporate headquarters in Festus, Mo. Lisa, who did not want her last name used, said Thursday the company already was getting calls from people who want to send donations to Kirkpatrick.

"A lot of people want to do something for him," she said. The contest benefited the American Cancer Society and

the St. Louis Cardinals Community Fund. The crowd of contestants slowly began dwindling over the weekend, with four people dropping out or being disqualified by mid-day Wednesday, leaving Kirkpatrick the sole contestant in Alton. As the contest dragged on, some people hallucinated and became dazed from sleep deprivation. Some contestants had walked in a stupor, while another man believed he was in a hospital.

Kirkpatrick's minister, the Rev. Darrin Hughes of Granite City, said the young man's efforts were not in vain. Church members had provided around-the-clock support, cheering and singing and clapping to keep Kirkpatrick going.

"To Danny, life is a stage,"

Hughes said. "He touched the pole when he leaned over to talk to two kids from the church. He forgot he couldn't touch the pole. We were really excited about what transpired there."

"There was the pain of disappointment, sure, but the brother (Jett) in Mid-Rivers really needed a home. You can't root against him."

Hours after the contest ended, Hughes said Kirkpatrick was "totally trashed" and relieved the grueling ordeal was over. Hughes said he has gotten some calls from people touched by Kirkpatrick's motive to raise money for missions. Hughes said church members probably will pledge to raise the \$12,500 for mission work in place of the winnings.

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Society

Senior adult group meets

Saints Alive, the Madison County Baptist Association Senior Adult Group, met July 6 at the Grace Baptist Church.

President Bob Lewis welcomed everyone. Happy Birthday was sung to those having birthdays since the last meeting. Prayer requests were taken, and The Rev. Dr. Scherman Smith, pastor of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Collinsville, led the prayer.

Kathy Sergeant, accompanied by Louise Accocks at the piano, led the singing of "America the Beautiful" and other hymns. The secretary report was given and approved. Dr. Smith announced a Bible study.

Wilkinson announced a Sept. 18-19 trip to Branson and Silver Dollar City and Eureka Springs, Ark. Bill Turner sang a special "Precious Memories." Ron Joyce, music director of Grace Baptist Church, gave a devotional on commitments and asked the blessing on the meal.

Those attending were Vera Kirkpatrick, Hazel Lomax, Kathy Sargent, Louise Accocks, Elwyn Wilkinson, Norma Jolly, Mark Pashea, Dorothy Miller, Patti Burgen, Gertrude Sullivan, Bryce Jolly, Bob Lewis, Glenn and Phyllis Knight, Mary Hoover, Lorena Odom, Hattie Corzine, Jean Corzine, Erby and Mildred Wood, Eileen Kittall, Dorothy Castleman, Bill Turner and Earl Spalding.

The next meeting will be Oct. 5 at the First Baptist Church in Granite City.

George "Buddy" Haynes has returned home from Stavopol, Russia, after serving four months there in mission work. He also taught English in the schools.

Harold and Charlotte McKinney have returned from a short vacation in Springfield, Mo. The couple visited their daughter, Janet,



Maxine Green

and her husband, Greg Knight. They also spent some time in their summer home in Wappello, Mo.

The Tuesday meeting of the Home League women met in the hall of Salvation Army.

Capt. Harriett Colip led the ladies in a Bible study. She spoke about the joy and the industrious. She used several Bible verses, and the response was "Be encouraged and renewed in your faith." The focus was on Jesus and His example of hard work and whole-hearted living.

Colip passed out paper on which the ladies could write the names of all those who needed prayers. There were approximately 40 ladies present plus Josh Griffin. Salvation Army soup was served to Dorothy Castleman, Doris Stark, Colip, Marie Jaeger, Mildred Lovejoy, Nina Hull, Myrtle Howell, Jo Wilkins, Joyce Moran, Marie Verbrugg, Evelyn Bringer, Geraldine Clay, Hazel Melsenheimer, Betty VanGilder, Evelyn Miles, Birdie Meyenburg, Cleo Stusher, Cecilia Wright, Margie Szerinski, Kim Griffin, Leisa Griffin, Elizabeth Griffin, Gladys Freeman, Kim Robinson, Darlene Robinson, Ruth Rupperecht, Thelma Howard, Josephine Bodi, Noma McAmish, Evelyn Wimberly, Luzel Scott, Rxie McKeel, Mildred Freeze, Patricia Freeze, Wilma Arnold, Christine DeLoach, Betty VanGilder and Ernestine Hahn.

God's plan follows law of contrasts

"You've heard the saying, 'Into each life a little rain must fall.' It is a part of the law of contrasts.

What if you planted a lovely garden with delicate lilies of the valley, fragrant hyacinth, blooming azaleas lining the walkway, tulips in an array of gorgeous colors, picture-perfect crocuses and bright yellow daffodils whispering "spring is here" to passersby?

And what if every day of the spring and summer season the weather was warm, the sunshine was brilliant and the blue sky clear without a hint of a cloud? April to September without a drop of rain. Suddenly you'd notice everything in your garden had shriveled up.

Rain comes with cloudy overcast days, but how precious those rainy days are to the little thirsty growing flowers, grass and trees.

Our lives, too, would become dried up and dull if we didn't have the contrasts that keep us enjoying the good things. As Helen Steiner Rice wrote, "God did not promise sun without rain, joy without sorrow or peace without pain." But He will give us strength in these contrasts, "Help from above, rest when we are weary and undying love."

A New You



Catherine Galasso

Along with the many blessings must come trials. Why do we sometimes have to experience adverse times? Because God's ultimate goal is to see you triumph over adversity. "My battle has come," says a friend, "and I have been fortified, strengthened, and I am the victor."

When we overcome difficulties, we experience greater freedom, wisdom and a power within. Our true character is revealed when we are tested. God allows trials so that we can be aware of that which is good, peaceful and strong.

After six days of a hurried business week, meetings, phone calls, deadlines and rush-hour traffic, how wonderful a day of rest is, time to call your own. It is

another prime example of the law of contrasts.

God is all wise and knows that all things work together for the good. No matter what we may be suffering right now, the difficulties or discouragements, He will give us a long, glorious day that will be made for unspeakable joy because it is such a contrast from the pain we have gone through.

It is a fight to have the right attitude to endure these things. But when you do you know your are gaining much more through your suffering.

Pray continually for strength and for a sense of humor to keep life from overwhelming you. Laughter can break the strain and stress. The Bible says, "Laughter is medicine for the bones." Therefore, laughter is healing.

Life faces demanding that you grow, for with adversity comes the challenge to achieve wisdom, compassion and understanding.

How beautiful and comforting are the words, "I know how you feel," or "I

have been through the exact same thing." God, who is so precious, always gives us someone to help us through trying times. When we suffer we grow also.

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him," James 1:12. It is the law of contrasts.

Don't be discouraged. Keep loving God no matter the disappointment, for He said, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with your whole heart."

Catherine Galasso is a free-lance columnist for the Suburban Journals. You may write to her at Suburban Journals, 1714 Deer Tracks Trail, St. Louis, 63131, or by e-mail at westnews@primary.net.

Dupo High School class plans reunion

Reservations are being accepted for the 50-year reunion of the Dupo High School Class of 1948 on Aug. 15 at the Holiday Inn in south St. Louis County. A reunion picnic will be Aug. 16 in Columbia Park.

The Class of 1949 is joining in the planning and participation this year, and both classes will be involved in celebrating the 50-year reunion for the Class of 1949 next year.

Anyone interested from all other classes is invited to attend.

For information, call Ruth Barlow Jackson at 337-7440.

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Fees are charged according to services received. Examinations are by appointment only. Physician referral is not required. For your convenience, a copy of your evaluation report will be sent to your physician.

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Information:

For an appointment or more information, call Memorial's Physical Therapy Department at 257-5250.

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Honor roll

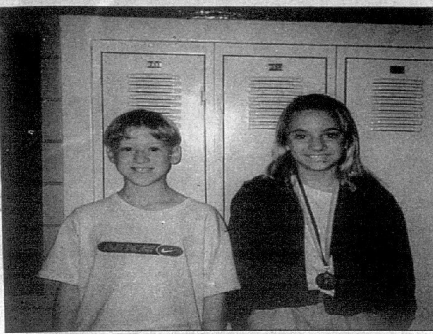
The following Granite City Senior High School students have achieved high honor roll with a semester GPA of 5.0 or above, and honor roll with 4.2 to 4.99.

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Billy Patterson and Laura Hildebrand

2 named Athletes of the Year

Physical education teacher Susan Smith has named Billy Patterson and Laura Hildebrand 1998 Athletes of the Year. This award is based upon performance in classroom, fitness scores, sportsmanship and participation. Billy was awarded his first Presidential Award and Laura was awarded her second Presidential. To receive this award, a student must score 85 percent in five events including pull-ups, running the mile, running the shuttle, how many sit-ups the student can do within one minute, and sit and reaches. Billy is the son of Bill and Cindy Patterson and will be attending Grigsby Middle School in the fall. Laura is the daughter of Patty Hildebrand and will be a student at Coolidge Middle School in the fall.

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Convention lures Corvette fanatics

Continued from Page 1A

Firebird," he said. Johnson, who teaches in driving schools and works at car introductions, said that for him, the racing season runs from April to November. "I'll take a weekend off a month. It depends on what my wife will let me do," he said. The convention included displays, a banquet and racing at Gateway. "Generally they meet on one of the coasts," said GIR President and General Manager Rod Wolter Tuesday.

"The Corvette's just a lot easier drive. It has the power, brakes, the turning capabilities that get your juices flowing and the adrenaline pumping."

Roger Johnson

afternoon.

He said the visitors liked the Gateway facilities because they could hold all of their races in one location.

"Normally they have to move from venue to venue, but they decided to come here where they could do them all in one place," he said. "In this case, we have a high-speed road course, a low-speed road course, and on Thursday, they'll be drag racing."

Wolter has taken a special interest in this event.

"I own two," he said. "I have a '71 coupe and a '88 convertible. There is quite a bit of difference. The '88 is a much more comfortable car to drive in. It actually has a trunk, so you can travel with it. The '71 is strictly to cruise the local area because there's no room for luggage."

Wolter said there is something special about Corvettes.

"It's the only American-produced sports car," he said. "There have been a lot of ones who have tried to make their car look like a Corvette, and the Ford Thunderbird went from being

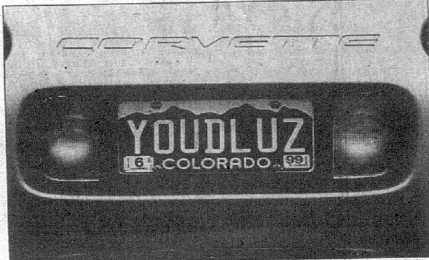
a sports-type car to a full family sedan, but now they're talking about dropping it." In addition to the 450 or so at Gateway, Wolter said another 600 cars were being shown or cruised in other parts of the St. Louis area in conjunction with the convention. He also pointed out that from the late 1950s to 1981, Corvettes were assembled in St. Louis.

He also said that the from 1953, the only year the car was not in production was 1983, when it underwent a complete redesign.

"The Corvette's just a lot easier drive. It has the power, brakes, the turning capabilities that get your juices flowing and the adrenaline pumping."

Roger Johnson

About 40 were produced but failed testing. All except one, on display at the Corvette assembly plant in Bowling Green, Ky., were destroyed.



Scott Cousins photos
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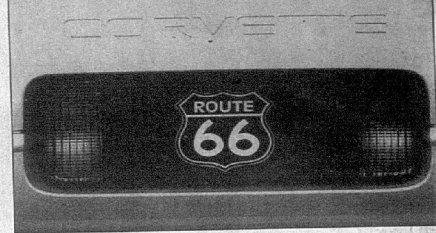
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Transplanting Tips from the experts at

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Where Beautiful Things Begin

That lush, full shrub in your yard looks simply magnificent. But you're thinking that it would look even better a few feet closer to the fence. The perfect spot for the tree you planted a couple of years ago isn't so perfect any more? Sound familiar? Well, there's good news. The location of most plants doesn't have to be considered permanent.

Many shrubs and small trees can be transplanted without causing any undue harm to the plant. And there are many reasons for doing so. Your teenager decides a volleyball court would be perfect if only that tree wasn't in the way. You'd like to build a shed, but the shrubs are forcing you to make do with a smaller size. And the goes on. Many gardeners engage in transplanting every year, sort of like moving the furniture around to get a new look. Here's how to go about it.

If you can tackle the job while the plant's still small, so much the better. It'll be easier for you and the plant. Plus, the plant will recover quicker from it.

Decide upon the new location before doing anything. If it seems suitable, dig the hole first. Make sure it's the same size as the original hole (three to four times the width of and as deep as the root ball). If you're in doubt, it's best to make the hole a little too big than too small. Then dig around the plant, being careful of the roots. You don't want to disturb any more of them than necessary. The roots supply nourishment to the rest of the plant, so the more you remove, the less nourishment that plant's going to get.

Adequate soil surrounding the plant is also very important. A plant that is moved carefully, with as much soil as possible left intact, has a better chance of survival. We're not suggesting a ton of soil that'll make the plant too heavy to lift, but enough to keep both you and the plant happy.

Once the plant is out of the ground, keep its roots moist at all times. Allowing the roots to dry out is like handing the plant a death sentence.

Don't keep the plant out of the ground any longer than absolutely necessary, but take enough time to do the job right. Try to place the plant in its new home within thirty to sixty minutes.

Set the plant in the hole much the same way you did when planting it originally. If it was staked in its old location, re-stake it. Make sure it's standing straight, and this means viewing it from every angle.

Water the plant just as you would if it was its first planting. Applying a layer of mulch around its base will keep the soil moist and help prevent weed growth.

Here's a transplanting tip that you'll probably be reluctant to try, but we recommend it, and so do other gardening experts. Cut the growth back by about a third. Trim it to the shape you desire, removing about a third of the growth overall. This may seem drastic, but experiments have shown that you should stick with this rule if you want quick recovery of the tree. When we say "recovery" it sounds a little harsh, but you're actually doing a form of surgery on the plant, and it needs to bounce back from it.

Back to the cutting of the growth. If you don't perform this step, the tree will look fine for a while, but may go into a relapse. You will see poor foliage, poor growth and maybe even a dead branch or two. Recovery can be delayed for as much as two years. If the tree was cut back by a third, there will be sufficient roots to support the smaller amount of plant growth.

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Disarmed by injuries

Pecoraro among SIUC's injured pitchers

"We're going to sit down as a staff and try to figure out what went wrong."

Sound like a quote you might expect from someone associated with the St. Louis Cardinals? Wrong. Try SIUC-Carbondale and coach Dan Callahan, who has seen

five of his pitchers undergo arm surgery, including former Journal Pitcher of the Year Jim Pecoraro of Belleville.

Obviously, while recruiting players for the 1999 season, Callahan has been looking for pitchers, but if the Salukis are to return to Missouri Valley Conference contention, he also will need the experience of Pecoraro, Jason Frasier, Donnie Chester, Aaron Bresko and Brad Huering.

While Callahan said he thinks the injuries are "a freak thing," Marilyn Pecoraro, the mother of the former Belleville East all-stater, said Jim's shoulder woes were something that existed early in the past season.

The MVC Freshman of the Year in 1997, Pecoraro underwent surgery after an MRI showed tendon damage beneath his right rotator cuff.

"Early in the season, he fielded a ground ball with a runner on first base and sailed the ball into center field," said Mrs. Pecoraro. "I knew something was wrong then."

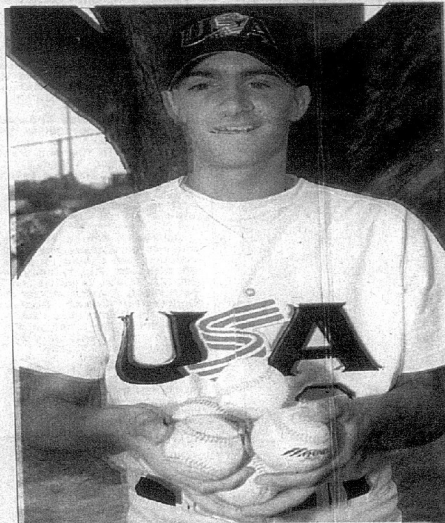
Surgery by Dr. Richard Lehman on June 5 at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Louis revealed that the damage was beneath the rotator cuff and could be cleaned out by a laser used in the arthroscopic procedure.

"Jim is rehabbing in Carbondale now, has no pain at all and is optimistic of coming back next season," said Mrs. Pecoraro.

A 6-foot-5, 220-pound right-hander, Jim was scheduled to play in Kansas City, Mo., with a collegiate league team this summer but is taking classes in computer — his major area — in addition to his rehabilitation, which included work in Belleville with Rich Wager at the Athletic Therapy Center.

Pecoraro was 2-3 last spring with four saves and a 7.55 earned run average, although he still managed to strike out 53 in 56 innings. As a freshman, he was 2-5 with four saves and a 3.69 ERA while appearing in a game-high 32 games, allowing 65 hits in 68.1 innings and fanning 57 while

See SIUC, Page 2B



T.L. Witt photo

Team USA pitcher Carmen Pignatiello will be a junior this fall at Providence Catholic High School in Frankfort.

Pignatiello at home in international event

Illinois' lone representative proud to wear USA jersey

By Scott Marion
Staff writer

Carmen Pignatiello isn't playing in his backyard in the IBA "AA" World Baseball Championships, but he's closer to home than anyone else.

Pignatiello, who will be a junior at Providence Catholic High School in Frankfort, is the only Illinois player on the USA Baseball National Youth Team. He made his tournament debut Monday at Collinsville, pitching two scoreless innings in relief and striking out four in a 13-0 victory over Italy.

"It's like a dream come true," said the 15-year-old Pignatiello after the USA 5-0 with Wednesday's 4-1 victory against Venezuela at Longacre Park in Fairview Heights. "I have high expectations of myself, but this is way over my expectations. It's a great feeling to play on this team and represent your country."

"It's really fun when the fans get behind you. It makes



you want to play better. It's nice playing in the U.S. because we have the crowd factor on our size." Pignatiello brings impressive credentials to the USA team. This past spring, as a sophomore at Providence, he was 8-2 with a 1.90 ERA and had 85 strikeouts in 60 innings. As a freshman, he became the

youngest player in Illinois history to throw a no-hitter in the state playoffs with a second-round regional victory over crosstown rival Lincoln Way.

(Lincoln Way) is two miles down the street from our

See PIGNATIELLO, Page 3B



Dennis Caldwell photo

A banner day

Players from the 12 teams competing in the IBA "AA" World Baseball Championships participated in World Baseball Day at Busch Stadium last Monday night. Players paraded onto the field prior to the St. Louis Cardinals game with the Cincinnati Reds. The tournament is scheduled to conclude today with the gold-medal game set for 5 p.m. at Legion Field in Longacre Park in Fairview Heights.

Tri City chugs into postseason despite extra-inning losses

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

In their last two regular-season games, the Tri City American Legion team lost consecutively to O'Fallon and Edwardsville in

extra innings. Still, coach Ralph Burnett has confidence going into the playoffs.

"We finished the season over .500, and we never really fielded a fully healthy team," Burnett said. "But there was never a lack of determination, never a bad effort. 'Naturally, you never win as many games as you'd like, and you lose some that you should have won. But it probably evened out in the end.' Tri City has been getting healthier lately, with an especially prominent return by Jeff Hayden."

"Jeff has gotten right back in there and been a real shot in the arm down the stretch," Burnett said. Hayden's return to center field has allowed Burnett to move Matt Mercer back behind the plate. "The last 10 days, Matt has been phenomenal," Burnett said Friday. "He's caught very well and added a great deal to our offense."

The timing of the last two losses may obscure the fact that Tri City is on an

upswing. "Especially in American Legion," Burnett said, "it's important to be playing your best at the end of the season going into the playoffs, and we're doing that. I guess we'll see if that's enough."

At the playoff meeting Thursday night, Tri City was seeded third in the

See TRI CITY, Page 4B

USA finishes pool play with a perfect record

Team takes aim at gold-medal game

By Brian Bretsch
Staff writer

"It's a game of inches," said USA Baseball Youth National coach Mark McKenzie.

"It's unbelievable," was after Venezuela barely missed hitting a three-run game-tying ninth-inning home run Wednesday afternoon at Legion Field in Fairview Heights' Longacre Park.

Team USA was all set to pick up its fifth straight win when pitcher Fritz Conrad grooved a fastball to Venezuela's No. 7 hitter, Adrian Figueredo. The hit was deep into the left-field corner but hooked ever so slightly and went foul by inches. Conrad took some time to collect himself and then threw a curve ball to strikeout

Figueredo to give USA the victory.

The win gave USA a perfect 5-0 record in pool play at the IBA "AA" World Baseball Championships. The team went on to win its elimination-round opener Thursday afternoon and was on a path to the gold-medal game, set for 1 p.m. at Legion Field in Longacre Park.

"I asked the catcher (Tony Richie), 'How close was it?' He said, 'It might have come real close to going over that foul pole. He said it was literally inches,' McKenzie said. "I thought it was gone."

"What was funny was when I saw him take his first swing and he fouled the ball back," said "This No. 7 hitter" and they said, "Yeah. The thought went through my mind, 'Well, we're all right; at least he won't be a three-run

See USA, Page 3B

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John Swistak Jr. photo

Edwardsville senior pitcher Ben Hutton posted a 17-0 mark as a senior and recorded 44 victories in his high school career.

Edwardsville's Hutton is a winner

By Brian Bretsch
Staff writer

When Edwardsville hurler Ben Hutton was a junior, he did not feel comfortable being mentioned in the same breath as former EHS pitching greats Tom Price, Jason Boyd and Joe Blasingim.

Price was a senior in 1990 when the Tigers captured their first state title with Tom Price as the head coach. Blasingim was a senior and Boyd a junior when the Tigers went into the state title game with a perfect record in 1991 and settled for second place.

When Hutton closed in on Price's school record of career victories this year, he did not want to just surpass the milestone, he wanted the moniker state champion attached when mentioning his name.

Ben Hutton, state champion.

During the 1998 season, Hutton set a standard for pitching excellence: He was unbeatable.

He led the Tigers pitching staff with an incredible 17-0 record and guided the Tigers to the Class AA state title. For his efforts, Hutton was voted the Class AA Baseball Player of the Year for the

Journal Newspapers of Southern Illinois.

"It's special to win and be recognized," Hutton said. "I will always look back and say if they team didn't do as well, I wouldn't get the accolades. I am surrounded by good players. Justin (Hampson) has always been the No. 2 pitcher and he's really, really good pitcher. He threw three straight one-hitters this year. With him doing so well, it made me want to go out and do better."

During his perfect senior campaign, Hutton surpassed the career victory totals for Price, Boyd or Blasingim and went on to set the Class AA record with 44.

"I pitched more than them," Hutton said. "I had an extra year on them because I had one more year to pitch."

But Hutton earned his victories. In 85 innings of work as a senior, he struck out 99 batters while issuing a mere seven base on balls. He was touched for just 55 hits and had a microscopic ERA of 1.07.

The records and statistics basically mean nothing to Hutton, who — along with his twin brother James — will play baseball next season for Saint Louis University.

"Winning state and going 49-0 is what it is all about," Hutton said. "Me, personally, 17-0 is kind of neat but it doesn't come anywhere near going 40-0 and winning state."

Hutton chalks up all of his and brother James' success to Pile and EHS pitching coach Mike Walmit for him.

Pile caught a glimpse of Ben Hutton when Hutton was a freshman. Pile knew he had a talented athlete and encouraged Hutton to specialize as a pitcher.

"He approached me a couple of weeks into the season and said, 'You're a freshman playing on the varsity team and the team was too talented for me to play the outfield,'" Hutton said. "I could play on the freshman team and play both."

"We talked about it and decided it was best if I was just a pitcher. It was a hard decision but a good decision. It worked because I was successful. It was hard to say if I would have been a pitcher and outfielder. I could have maybe been the No. 4 pitcher and not gotten a scholarship."

All-Journal Baseball Team (Class AA)

First team

Pitchers

Mike Bowen, O'Fallon: The junior reached the 100-strikeout plateau for the second straight varsity season. He was 9-3 with a 1.54 ERA. He struck out 101 batters while walking 25.

At the plate, Bowen hit .390 with six home runs and 32 RBIs. In the three seasons of varsity action he has 21 home runs and 89 RBIs.

"He had another exceptional year when you consider he played half of the year with a cracked aluminum bat," O'Fallon coach Art Voellinger said. "He remains potentially the best high school pitcher I have ever coached. He is on pace to play professional baseball."

Justin Hampson, Edwardsville: The senior southpaw could have the ace of most high school pitching staffs in the area. He was 7-0 with a 1.46 ERA. Opponents batted .176 this season against him. He had 76 strikeouts and just 24 bases on balls.

"If he got his breaking stuff over, he dominated games," Edwardsville coach Tom Price said.

Catcher

James Hutton, Edwardsville: The senior catcher could have easily been the first-team pitcher. He was 8-0, including the win in the title game of the IHSAA Class AA state baseball tournament.

Offensively, he batted .364 with 17 stolen bases and 29 RBIs.

"He was a pillar back there for us," Pile said. "He was our MVP because he is the player you would have to lose the most. He was 9-0 with six saves. He batted .364. He blocked balls and threw out runners. He was a great leader. He was a tremendous receiver. I would say he was our top receiver ever."

Infielders

Kenny Lutz, Collinsville: The junior has been the man for the Hawks the last two seasons both on the mound and at the dish. Lutz hit .511 this season while clouting 12 home runs and driving in 54 runs.

On the hill, he posted a 10-2 mark, with 107 strikeouts and an ERA below 2.00.

"I think he is as good of a player as I've coached," Collinsville coach Steve McFall said. "He fills multiple needs for us. He's a big hitter. He is a two-time 500-hitter, multi home run seasons and 100 RBIs in the last two seasons. He goes to the mound and pitches his arm off. I think he's an exceptional athlete."

Bryan Swift, Belleville West: The senior was a three-year starter for the Maroons. He bat-

ted .373 this season with 31 hits, 27 runs and 12 RBIs. This spring, he played some of his best baseball in the postseason.

"I am going to miss Bryan Swift," Belleville West coach Chuck Hasenstab said. "I really don't know how we are going to work without him in the roster (next year). It was real easy just penning him in."

"You could always count on Bryan to have a couple of hits a game and one of those hits was going to be for extra bases. Now how many extra bases? Many times it was four. As he started off the regionals this year, in every game he started off with a home run and was off to pretty good pitchers. It was nice to have him in a spot where you knew when he was going to swing the bat that something was going to happen."

Chad Opel, Edwardsville: The senior led the team with a sizzling 786 slugging percentage as the Tigers No. 3 hitter. He batted .453 with 13 doubles, six triples and five home runs while driving in 44 runs.

He was more than an adequate replacement for Mark Bugger (1997 graduate) at shortstop.

"Whenever we needed a big play, he came up with it," Pile said. "He made two big plays at state. Chad was a silent leader. He is not a hollering type of guy. If someone screwed up, he gave them a look."

"I like the way he played baseball and football. He was just a winner. I knew he would be good but not with those kind of numbers."

P.J. Creek, Belleville East: The two-year varsity starter was the Lancers starting shortstop a year ago but moved over to third base with Dante Brinkley and 23 RBIs. He also belted 10 doubles and eight triples while scoring 28 runs and swiping 13 bases.

Gettles, who recently signed a Major League Baseball free agent contract with the Kansas City Royals, played shortstop and caught for the 11-14 Comanches.

"The best way to describe it is he's like having a third coach on the field," Chokola coach Joe Moore said of Gettles, who reported

for Kansas City's rookie team — the Gulf Coast Royals in Fort Myers, Fla. — on July 3.

"He helps the younger kids learn. He's just great to coach. And he doesn't let anything get to him. He's just a good ballplayer."

Outfielders

Nick Seibert, Edwardsville: The junior belted seven home runs and drove in 44 runs while batting .414. He was second on the Tigers team with a .712 slugging percentage.

"In six games in a 10-game stretch, he carried us with a big base hit or a home run," Pile said. "Two of his home runs were game-winners — one was against Belleville West. He was a good solid player. He was also 2-0 and had two saves. Nick, next season, I think the sky is the limit for him."

Dave Crouthers, Edwardsville: The senior center fielder set team records for at-bats (138) and hits (68) in a season. He missed tying the single-season school mark for highest batting mark by three points. He batted .493 this spring.

"He's one of the top three hitters I've had as far as hitting the ball hard," Pile said. "He had about 20 line-drive outs. He hit the ball hard. He rarely had a bleeder or Texas leaguer."

"He was a good outfielder. He could go and get it. He had a good arm in the outfield. He came out in his junior year and didn't start but got better and better. He made one play at the wall at the state tournament."

Larry Scheller, Belleville East: The senior was the epitome of a great athlete this season. He was a first-team All-Journal selection in soccer, basketball and now baseball member. Scheller, a three-year starter, was 34-for-78 (.436) this spring. He collected 15 RBIs, 19 walks and 12 stolen bases.

"He hit second behind Dante Brinkley. They were an excellent hit and run play," Schutzendorf said. "They really set the table for our big power hitters Nick Rottal and P.J. Creek. He's excellent in the outfield. He is the premier centerfielder in the area. He can go back and catch them. Longacre Park is his kind of park lots of space where he can go flag them down."

Pitchers

Don Grider, Belleville East; Adam Dodd, Belleville West; Dave Jablonick, Triad; Dustin Brewer, Granite City.

Catcher

Andy Schutzendorf, Belleville East; Dan Munoz, Collinsville; Scott Smalle, Granite City; Larry Mosby, East St. Louis; Robby Brown, O'Fallon; Outfielders

Larry Scheller, Belleville East; Trevor Yates, Triad; Wayne Hubert, Triad.

Soccer Tryouts

Tryouts for under-19 girls soccer players will be July 21 and 23 (8 p.m., each night) at Granite City BAC Soccer Fields. Bring birth certificate and photo. For information, call 451-9757.

The Granite City Elks under-10 soccer tryout set for July 25 (4:30-6 p.m.). Players should bring soccer ball and arrive 10 minutes early or registration. For information, call 451-5765.

The Stars/Rowdies under-16 soccer team is conducting tryouts for boys born after Aug. 1, 1982, at the Tri-Township Park in Troy on Aug. 1 and 2 (10 a.m., each day). Boys are asked to bring soccer ball, picture and birth certificate. For information, call 667-0989 or 626-1127.

Collinsville United Nationals conduct open tryouts for players born after Aug. 1, 1982, on July 21, 22 and 23 (6:30-8 p.m., each night). Tryouts will be at Collinsville United Soccer Fields in Collinsville. Candidates must bring small photo, copy of birth certificate. For information, call 236-3826.

The Collinsville Hot Shots under-10 boys soccer team (a member of the Collinsville United Soccer Association) will have open tryouts July 27 and 28 (8 p.m., each night) at Van Fossen fields in Collinsville. Boys born after July 1, 1988, should bring soccer ball and birth certificate. If you have any questions, call 345-4876 or 345-7839.

The Granite City Elks will conduct tryouts for girls for under-17 team (Aug. 1, 1981 or later birthday), under-16 team (Aug. 1, 1982 or later birthday), under-15 team (Aug. 1, 1983). Tryouts are July 19 and 21 (6 p.m., each night) at the Granite City Elks complex on the Belleville Area College campus in Granite City. Players should bring soccer ball, school photo and birth certificate. For information, call 451-1536.

The Downtown Imprints under-14 boys soccer team will conduct tryouts 6-8 p.m. July 22 and 29 at the Tri-Township Park. All boys born after Aug. 1, 1984 are eligible and should bring birth certificate and soccer ball. For information, call 687-9235.

The Southwest Select Soccer Club will conduct tryouts for boys born from Aug. 1, 1988 through 1989. Tryouts will be held from 6-8 p.m. on July 21 at Horseshoe Lake State Park and 6-8 p.m. July 23 at Glidden Park in Collinsville. For information, call 345-0673 or 344-3805.

The 87 Lady Elks soccer team is conducting tryouts at the Granite City campus of Belleville Area College for players born after Aug. 1, 1988. For more information, call 345-8724.

Information, call 451-9505.

The Elks 85 girls under-14 soccer team will conduct open tryouts for girls born after Aug. 1, 1989, at the Belleville Area College campus in Granite City. All candidates must bring soccer ball and birth certificate. For information, call 797-1890.

The Granite City Elks under-10 girls team will conduct tryout 5:30 p.m. July 22 at Granite City Belleville Area College campus. Bring birth certificate and soccer ball. For information, call 931-4553.

Granite City Elks 89 girls soccer team will conduct tryouts for players born after Aug. 1, 1989, at the Belleville Area College campus in Granite City. Candidates must bring ball and birth certificate. For information, call 931-7185.

The Collinsville United Snowmonkeys under-12 boys soccer team will conduct tryouts July 21 and 23 (6:30-8 p.m., each evening) at United Sports complex (300 yards past Van Fossen fields on McDonough Lake Road). Players should bring recent photo and birth certificate. For information, call 931-5006 or 345-0382.

For information on Lou Fusz Soccer Club tryouts, call the following coaches: Boys U-9, Christopher Tuzim, 862-9248 ext. 10 or Page 601-8294; Boys U-10, Don Popovic, 752-7888; Boys U-11, Don Popovic, 752-7888; Boys U-12, Roger Ship, 947-1842, or Roger Dake, 240-8496; Boys U-13, Steve Mathias, 441-6691, or Henry Pecherak, 532-8108; Boys U-14, Steve Mathias, 441-6691; Boys U-15, John Sanders, 434-8633; Boys U-16, John Sanders, 434-8633; Boys U-17, Don Popovic, 752-7888; Boys U-18, Dan Leary, 963-1807; Boys U-19, Tom Donohue, 926-3353; Girls U-12, Cliff Albens, 405-1174, or John Pohl, 277-2777; Girls U-13, Carrow, 438-4392; Girls U-14, Bill Thompson, 894-8822, or Don Popovic, 752-7888; Girls U-15, Steve Kaver, 928-8888; Girls U-16, Steve Kaver, 928-8888; Girls U-17, Steve Kaver, 928-8888.

The Collinsville United Purple Crush girls under-14 select soccer team will conduct open tryouts 6-8 p.m. July 15 and 23 at the Van Fossen/Collinsville United Soccer Complex in Collinsville. Players must bring a copy of birth certificate and soccer ball. Call 344-4132, 345-0168 or 345-0382.

The Collinsville United Explosion will conduct open tryouts 6-8 p.m. on July 14, 22 and 30 at the new Collinsville United soccer complex. Girls must be born after Aug. 1, 1989. For more information, call 345-8724.

Softball Standings

Softball Central Standings			
Monday			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Anthony's Italy	1	0	.100
Hurricanes	0	2	.000
Sharks	0	3	.000
Losers	0	5	.000
Randy's Spits	5	3	.625
Bar	3	4	.429
Auto Body Shop	1	7	.125
Spring Valley	0	8	.000
Tuesday Night Men			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Eagles	0	1	.000
Randy's West	0	2	.000
Moore's Pit Stop	0	5	.000
Randy's Replay	0	5	.000
Lonnie Liquor	3	8	.273
Randy's Rest	0	11	.000
Tuesday Night Men South			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Eagles	0	1	.000
Randy's West	0	2	.000
Moore's Pit Stop	0	5	.000
Randy's Replay	0	5	.000
Lonnie Liquor	3	8	.273
Randy's Rest	0	11	.000
Thursday Men North			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Patriots	7	2	.778
Hurricanes	7	3	.700
G. Schwehr	7	3	.700
Cougar	4	8	.333
MCA	4	6	.400
Men's Lax	0	6	.000
Advance Water	3	3	.500
Intelligence	3	7	.300
Frisco	3	8	.273
Thursday Men South			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Tyler Dist	9	2	.818
Randy's Rest	8	2	.800
W. 7	7	1	.875
X2 Collison	6	4	.600
Main St. Barber	6	4	.600
Men's Lax	5	5	.500
Gas House Gang	3	8	.273
My B	2	6	.250
Valentine Oil	0	9	.000
Tuesday's Women			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Phyl's	1	0	1.000
EAT Transport	6	2	.750
Scatter	5	3	.625
Family Fun Tm	3	3	.500
The BANK	1	8	.111
Wednesday Men's			
Team	W	L	Pct.
The BANK	11	1	.917
Hurricanes	4	6	.400
Scatter	5	5	.500
Roberts/Dybbahl	5	7	.417
Losers	0	8	.000
Spring Valley	0	13	.000
Wednesday Co-Ed			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Softball Cent	10	1	.909
Copper Lwn	9	2	.818
Friday Men's			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Randy's Over	6	5	.545
All-Star	6	5	.545
Brenden's	6	5	.545
Randy's Rest	6	5	.545
Randy's Replay	6	5	.545
West	6	5	.545
Roberts/Dybbahl	6	5	.545

Granite City Park District

GRANITE CITY PARK DISTRICT (Through July 12)

SOFTBALL Jr. Poole 35-and-over League

Team	W-L
Brady's	5-1
Engle	5-2
Jacobsmeyer/Bud Light	3-2
Jacobsmeyer's	2-4
M.H.C.	0-4

Sonny Antoff 50-and-over League

Team	W-L
M.G. Jones	4-0
A.G. Edwards	3-1
Roch & Sixteen	1-3
Daily Queen/Old Rookies	0-4

Seniors 50-and-over

Team	W-L
Supreme Eggs	5-1
Ancient Warriors	4-2
Metros	4-2
A.G. Edwards	2-4
Dr. Jack	2-4
U.S. Patriot	1-5

Men 4A

Team	W-L
Brady's	5-1
Ta Bar & Grill	5-1
Dooley Appraisal	2-6
Electric Mud Puppies	0-7

Men 1A

Team	W-L
Tower Automotive	7-0
G.C. Post Kickapoo	6-2
Diaper	5-2
V.T.S.	5-2
Shirley Chiopracio	5-2
Bad Boys	4-2
Walters Sheet Metal	3-4
European Tanners	3-5
Hurlock Steel	2-6
Hideaway Cafe	1-6
Gateway Packers	0-8

Men 3A

Team	W-L
Pigs	7-1
Multicare Specialists	5-3
Hook's	5-3
Jackson Homes	3-4
Brady's	2-6
Body-County Company	1-7

Men 3A Blue

Team	W-L
Tim's Guncakes	4-2
Owlans	4-2
G.C. Sox	3-3
Freddy McD's	3-3
Ball Blasters	3-4
American Collision	2-5
Midnight Outlaws	1-6

Men 5A

Team	W-L
Hook's	6-1
Buchan	5-2
Kramon's	4-3
Paul Beatty Motors	3-4
Team Performance	2-6
T's Roughriders	1-6

Men 6A

Team	W-L
Pizza World	6-1
K of L Lounge	5-1
Jacobsmeyer/Miller Light	5-2
Elmer & Annie's	2-5
K of C	1-5
Jim's Pawn & Jewelry	1-6

Church 2A

Team	W-L
Grace Baptist I.	6-1
New Life Assembly	5-2

Grace Baptist II.	5-2
First Church of Nazarene	4-3
Suburban Baptist	3-4
Namewick United Methodist	2-4
St. John	2-5
Pull Gospel Fellowship	0-7

Norm Grote Church 3A

Team	W-L
Suburban	5-0
St. John	7-1
Calvary Baptist-Edwardsville	4-2
Calvary Baptist	4-4
Harvest Assembly	1-4
First Assembly	1-5
Word of Life	0-8

Women 1A

Team	W-L
G.C. Park District	4-0
Hooch & Sixteen	5-1
American Family Insurance	4-1
Burger Accounting	1-2
Gulf USA	1-4
Pace Satters	1-4
Sanny's Wildlife	1-5

Women 2A

Team	W-L
Sandy's Dye Hards	5-1
Wilson Park Apartments	4-2
Jacobsmeyer	2-2
Thomas Mortuary	1-3
Medicine Shoppe III. Classics	0-4

Women 3A

Team	W-L
Brady's	6-0
American Auto	5-2
Jacobsmeyer	1-4
Kramon's	0-7

Women 5A

Team	W-L
Ingleside	5-0
Jacobsmeyer	5-2
William Scholier Law Office	5-2
M.H.C.W.A.	4-2
Dan Palovich State Farm	1-4
Smoky Joe's	1-4
Little People Day Care	1-6
Allied Waste	1-6
Choo's	1-6

Coed Blue

Team	W-L
Evolution	8-1
Ricky's Downtown	6-4
Jerry's Kids	4-3
Capri Sun	4-4
Frederick's	3-5
Rickies	0-8

Coed Red

Team	W-L
El Gato	6-1
Ingleside	5-0
Sitting Ducks	5-3
D & C Sheet Metal	4-3
Ford Hotel Supply	1-4
Sooty's Automotive	1-6
Harvest Assembly	1-4
Little Angels	1-4

YOUTH BASEBALL

Atom I

Team	W-L
Bombers	6-0
Golf USA Gators	5-1
Designers	5-1
Cardinals (Coastline)	4-3
Giants	4-3
Elks	2-4
Angels	2-6
Cardinals (Gateway)	2-6
Blue Eagles	0-7

Atom II

Team	W-L
Eagles 1129	5-1
ATSCME A.S.	4-2
G.C. Elks	4-2
Panthers	2-4

Raptors	2-6
Cubs	0-8
Warriors	0-8

Bantam I

Team	W-L
Bobcats	6-1
Elks Cardinals	2-1
Elks White Rangers	2-3
Chrysois Environmental	1-3
Jason's Ice Cream Factory	1-4

Bantam II

Team	W-L
Legal Eagles	6-0
Gram Blammers	5-0
Spanglart Sharks	4-1
Patterson Tire Tiggers	3-1
Pizza World/Panthers	3-5
Moore Lodge Jaguars	1-5
G.C. Elks	0-8

Midlet I

Team	W-L
Hornets	4-2
Matt's Mutter Indians	4-2
Eagles	2-3
O'Brien's Colts	2-3
Knights	1-7

Midlet II

Team	W-L
D.C. Menaces	5-0
VFW 1200	5-0
G.C. Elks	3-3
Bobcats	3-3
Indians	3-3
White Sox	2-3
Tigers	2-3
Tri-City Speedway	0-5

Juvenile

Team	W-L
G.C. Sox	5-0
Wood River P.S.G.	4-1
Swift's	3-2
Police Saints	2-3
Bobcats	2-3
Blue Jays	1-2
Mike Hahne Towing	1-4

YOUTH SOFTBALL

Ponytail Atom

Team	W-L
Rein Tunnel Monarchs	6-0
Modern Woodmen Warriors	5-1
Slingers	5-1
Sweetarts	2-5
Purple Pumas	2-6
Hot Shots	1-4

Ponytail Bantam

Team	W-L
Thunder	4-0
G.C. Moose Wildcats II	5-1
Curly Corner Market	3-2
G.C. Elks	3-4
Unions	2-3
Lady Bugs	1-4
Merz Chiropractic	1-4
Little Angels	1-5

Ponytail Midlet

Team	W-L
Elks 85	6-1
G.C. Moose Wildcats II	5-2
Varlock Social Club	5-3
M.H.C.	4-4
Multicare Specialists	4-5
Moose Hearts	2-6
Rain Tunnel	0-8

Ponytail Juvenile

Team	W-L
ATA Takewonda Dragons	3-0
G.C. Steel Credit Union	1-1
Annata Post 204	1-1
Flames	2-3
Lucky Charms	0-3

Sports

Tri City heads into district playoffs

Continued from Page 1B

North Division with Edwardsville seeded first. If Tri City won Friday night against Alton at home, they faced a second-round matchup against Bethalto on Saturday.

Mike Alvers pitched on Friday night, with Paul Kacera scheduled for Saturday afternoon. "If Mike can get us through to Saturday," Burnett said, "we'll throw Paul in there to try and get us back to Edwardsville."

Highland is the other top team in the division's double-elimination format this week after the single-elimination preliminary rounds. Despite the tough road ahead, Burnett has confidence that his guys will put up a good fight.

"We're going to have to get an unexpected pitching performance to move on, and solid defense," he said. "We don't have a great margin for errors, because we don't score a whole lot of runs. We need to get something from everyone to advance. I don't know how far we can get, but I think we can make some

noise. I really do."

Especially in what's shaping up as a potential grudge match against Edwardsville. "I don't think we're outclassed by Edwardsville," Burnett said, "but I'm not about to say that we are as deep or as talented as they are. Still, we'll take our chances."

Also at the meeting on Thursday, lineups were announced for the all-star game July 27 at Fairview Heights. Tri City placed Alvers and second baseman Scott Smallie on the team. Both should play crucial roles in the playoffs.

"To tell you the truth," says Burnett, "when I got Scott's numbers back from the stat company, and saw that he'd hit .428, I was shocked. I knew he'd had a great season, but I didn't realize his average was that high."

Alvers, as usual, will hold the destiny of the team in his left hand. "Obviously, he's our best pitcher," Burnett said, "and he's got to do well on the mound, but we also bat him fifth in the lineup. That's a lot of responsibility on one guy's shoulders. We need a total team effort."

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147 Catalpa, Pontoon Beach 100% financing available on this builder trade in home. Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac. Call today for your private showing. \$93,500. Directions: Hwy 111 to Timberlake to Mimosa to Catalpa.

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17522 - 3 bay self-serve car wash. Low maintenance. Agent owned. Ask for Will.

17524 - TWO LOTS LEFT! Prestigious subdivision is filling up. Call for details. Ask for Will.

17526 - BUILD ON THIS 5 ACRE TRACT!! Also includes lake. Ask for Will.

17708 - BRICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING! Close to the square in Highland. Large cooler, bar sink, walk-in refrigerator, 3 separate apartment units, upstairs, main floor & basement. Can be easily made into single family. Take a look. Ask for Will.

17801 - MULTI-FAMILY! This large older home has been converted to 3 separate apartment units, upstairs, main floor & basement. Can be easily made into single family. Take a look. Ask for Will.

17996 - WORKING AT THE CAR WASH! Established business wash and detail shop. Plenty of room for use. Call for details. Ask for Will.

18023 - GREAT STARTER HOME some updates, nice location, quiet neighborhood. Ask for Will.

18061 - ESTABLISHED MOBILE HOME PARK. Close to shopping, parks and schools. All lots are rented. Ask for Will.

18100 - RIVER-UPPER 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA home with walk-out basement in Caseyville. Ask for Ken or Marge.

18101 - 2+ ACRES TRACTS? Beautiful lakefront building sites. City water and electric available. Ask for Dottie.

18143 Great possibilities! All brick older home in Collinsville has hardwood flooring, original woodwork, 3+ bedrooms. Large front porch and covered back entry. Detached garage. Ask for Sue H.

18172 - ALL BRICK LOW MAINTENANCE!! Situated on a corner lot, 2 BR home has kitchen, living, dining, workshop in attached garage. Ask for Sue H.

18173 - GREAT STARTER! Cute little house on quiet street. Charming decor with wallpaper accents. Price to sell. Ask for Linda.

18174 - OWNER READY TO GO! You'll love this darling remodeled home on corner lot with extra income from mobile home on lot. Ask for Ken or Marge.

18289 - SPACIOUS 3 BR DECORATED VERY NICELY! Wood entry foyer with open staircase. Try calling with wallpaper accents in Master BR. Morningwood fireplace in LR w/valued ceiling. Ask for Sue W.

18256 - MAGNIFICENT STARTER HOME with full basement. Detached garage - affordably priced. Ask for Glenn.

18258 - MULTI-FAMILY ZONED!! Large lot, you can put 2-Duplexes, or Fourplexes in great location, close to everything! Ask for Norma.

18289 - ESTABLISHED RESTAURANT! Potential for thriving business in small community. Equipment stays. Ask for Linda.

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Automotive

find a new vehicle on-line, www.yourjournal.com

Restyled Cougar showcases new-edge styling

By Tom Strongman

Engine: 2.5-liter, V-6
Transmission: Automatic
Wheelbase: 106.5 inches
Curb Weight: 3,084 pounds
Base Price: \$17,910
Price as Driven: \$20,895
MPG Estimate: 20 city, 29 highway

Mercury's new Cougar is a different kind of cat. Small and lithe, rather than large and ponderous, it has a distinctly European flavor and styling unlike anything else from an American automaker. Based on the



Contour/Mystique platform, this two-door coupe is conceptually closer to the now-defunct Ford Probe than the old full-size Cougar, which was derived from the Ford Thunderbird. Engine choices are a 2.0-liter four-cylinder or a 2.5-liter V-6. Prices start at \$16,595 for the four-cylinder and range to \$17,910 for the V-6 with an automatic, which was the model I drove.

The 170-horse Duratec V-6 is one of Ford's nicest engines because it revs so willingly and does so without excessive vibration. Optimum performance comes from the five-speed, but even with the automatic it is fairly spunky.

I was unable to sample a four-cylinder, but with 125 horsepower it should have adequate performance for those who are more interested in price and fuel economy than how fast they can hit 60 mph.

Styled in Ford's European studios, the Cougar showcases new-edge styling, wherein smooth, aerodynamic surfaces are punctuated with what Ford describes as "clean folds and crisp intersections" to create a look of simplicity and precision.

Clearly, creative styling is the Cougar's trademark. Its grill creates a smiling, cat-like face. Bubbles in the plastic covers over the head and tail lights not only add visual

interest but enable the lights to be seen from the side. Particularly nice is the way the trailing edge of the trunk lid scribes a line that becomes the top of the tail light and continues down into the rear-wheel opening as the edge of the rear bumper cover. This is the same kind of styling detail Ford first debuted on its tiny European hatchback, the Ka. Look for more of it in the future.

Subtle indentations and contouring add visual character to the side body panels as well as unifying the front and rear design. Sleek styling touches continue inside, where the door pulls are bright, curving arcs that encircle stereo speakers and have the door handles indented into the top.

Some interior plastic textures have a semi-metallic look that resembles a high-tech appliance or stereo equipment. They are interesting, but for my taste, lack the kind of warmth I like inside a car.

Dual air bags are standard, with side air bags, located in the outer seat bolster, are designed to cushion both the head and chest.

Instruments have light gray faces and white numerals, that are a bit tricky to read in certain lighting conditions. They were

particularly susceptible to reflections from the dash in bright sun. At night, however, these faces darken and are quite pleasant. The seats continue the high-tech, industrial look with tight-weave, twill fabric upholstery that is among the most handsome I have seen in a long time. Not only does it look durable, but the two-tone shading looks much classier than some of the printed patterns I have seen inside some cars lately.

Front seats are generously sized sport buckets with firm lateral and lumbar support. The split-folding back seat is small and very heavily contoured, making it adequate for kids. Fortunately, it can be folded down to open up the cargo capacity, which is crucial for the young, active buyers who will be interested in this car.

A sports coupe is not a sports coupe unless it handles well, and the V-6 is certainly athletic. Sixteen-inch alloy wheels and low-profile tires give it excellent steering response. It turns into corners instantly, and the body stays flat.

The base price of the V-6 and automatic transmission is \$17,910. The test car was a pre-production unit that did not have an actual price sticker. Adding up its options of rear spoiler, aluminum wheels, four-wheel disc brakes, sport seats, remote keyless entry, rear wiper, cruise control, power driver's seat, anti-lock brakes and upgraded stereo with CD player, the sticker price would be \$20,290.

The standard warranty is for three years or 36,000 miles.



Points & Plugs

Counties targeted for "Safe and Sober" patrols

By Rick Stoff

Jefferson County is getting special attention this summer from the Missouri State Highway Patrol as part of "Operation Safe and Sober," an effort aimed at areas with the highest alcohol-related traffic crash rates in Missouri.

State troopers who have been effective in locating and arresting intoxicated drivers will assist local law enforcement officers in looking for drunken drivers every Wednesday through Sunday through August, according to the patrol.

Special emphasis also is being placed on patrols this summer in Taney, Stone, Barry and McDonald counties, the patrol said.

Remember when somebody used to sell fiberglass hood kits that could make a Volkswagen Beetle look a little bit like a silly Rolls-Royce or Bentley? Now that Volkswagen has purchased the Rolls-Royce company and its subsidiary brand Bentley, the company says it will build a low-priced Bentley. The VW Bentley still will cost around \$100,000, but Volkswagen says it hopes to boost Rolls and Bentley sales to 10,000 annually from the current total of about 2,000.

BMW has been busy on the acquisition front, too, having recently bought the English Rover company. This could be good news for U.S. car buyers, since BMW says it would like to reintroduce Rover and MG cars to America.

But BMW taketh away, too. BMW nearly bought Rolls-Royce before Volkswagen came along with a better offer. BMW has been providing engines to Rolls but now says it will end that relationship. Volkswagen plans to begin producing its own eight- and 12-cylinder engines for its luxury cars, which could include some with VW badges.

Volkswagen, meanwhile, is cautioning its dealers about alienating long-term customers by trying to make too much short-term cash. While VW cannot legally dictate prices to its dealers, the trade publication Automotive News says the company is concerned about dealers selling the New Beetle for more than the sticker price because the car is in short supply and probably will be for many more months.

An Ohio driver told the magazine he was told he would get his car for the sticker price — until it arrived and he went to the showroom to pick it up. Suddenly the car cost \$2,000 more. Hot-rod Lincoln owners, beware. Cadillac reportedly is building a two-seat roadster based on a Corvette chassis and powered by Cadillac's own Northstar V-8 engine. The engine will have double overhead cams and 32 valves.

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